

**Policy for women**

†1469. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any concrete policy for education, change in social thinking and to provide adequate opportunities for prosperity in the direction of women empowerment;
- (b) if so, the consecutive details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has adopted the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women which will guide and inform action at all levels and integrate women's concerns and perspectives into all macro and micro level initiatives. A Statement showing the goals and objectives of the Policy is annexed. (See.below)

- (c) Question does not arise.

**Statement**

*Go2/ and Objectives of the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women*

The goal of the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The Policy will be widely disseminated so as to encourage active participation of all stakeholders for achieving its goals. Specifically, the objectives of this Policy include:

- (i) Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential;
- (ii) The *de-jure* and *de-facto* enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres — political, economic, social, cultural and civil;
- (iii) Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

- (iv) Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all level, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.;
- (v) Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;
- (vi) Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women;
- (vii) mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process;
- (viii) Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and
- (ix) Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

**VRS in Bharat Gold Mines Limited**

1470. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made a provision of Rs. 83.62 crore in budget estimate for 2001-2002 as grants-in-aid to Bharat Gold Mines Limited;

(b) if so, whether this would help the employees for terminal benefits who opt for voluntary retirement;

(c) whether the Ministry of Mines had pleaded that following closure of the century-old gold mines, it is necessary to provide funds for the purpose;

(d) if so, how many employees have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(e) to what extent Government have agreed for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD-PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government has been announcing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) from